

2002 Farm Bill

Billed as “the most significant piece of conservation and environmental legislation in over a decade”, the new, 2002 Farm Bill benefits all Americans, not just farmers. And, as some agriculture leaders are expressing, it’s the best farm bill the Northeast has ever seen!

USDA is committed to a timely and efficient farm bill implementation process, and the three agency leaders meet regularly to insure quality of service to all Vermonters.

Aptly titled the **Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002**, the bill makes significant investments in and improvements to our rural development programs.

A major new component, the Conservation Security Program, will provide incentive, cost-share and bonus payments to producers to maintain existing conservation practices or install new ones.

The new Farm Bill also makes significant changes in farm program structure and funding that will bring stability to Vermont farmers.



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United States
Department of Agriculture

Serving All Americans

Vermont

June 2002

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

USDA Agencies What We Can Do For You

Natural Resources

Conservation Service:

Is the country's largest conservation agency, encouraging voluntary efforts to protect soil, water and wildlife on the 70 percent of America's lands that are in private hands.

Participation in NRCS programs is voluntary.

Specific programs in Vermont work to:

Implement the **conservation provisions** of the 2002 Farm Bill.

Develop **natural resource inventories** for the state.

Provide emergency repair work after floods or other natural disasters.

Protect watersheds and reduce flood damages.

Help farmers comply with **wetland conservation requirements**.

Join with state or local governments to purchase **conservation easements** for preserving agricultural lands.

Identify and recommend **plants** for conservation uses.

Work with private landowners or users to **identify problems** with land, water and related resources.

Help communities conserve, develop and manage their natural resources.

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Farm Service Agency:

Helps keep America's farmers in business as they face the uncertainties of weather and markets. Our programs are major components of USDA's farm safety net.

Disaster assistance programs provide funds to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and financial assistance on non-insurable crop losses and planting prevented by disasters. Emergency loans are also available along with emergency haying and grazing assistance.

Farm loans are available to farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private commercial credit. Guaranteed loans for up to 95 percent of the principal loan amount are available. Applicants unable to qualify may be eligible for direct loans.

Price support programs for wheat, feed grains, oilseeds, rice and cotton promote the economic stability of agriculture. Newly authorized programs address milk, apples, honey, lamb, and farm storage facility loans.

Commodity operations ensure a uniform regulatory system for storage of agricultural products, ensure delivery of food products to food assistance programs and ensure the achievement of domestic farm program objectives.

Conservation programs provide rental payments for planting permanent vegetation on idle, highly erodible lands; allow for incentive payments to install specific conservation practices, provide financial assistance to help replace lost crops and install best land management practices.

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Farm Service Agency

Rural Development :

Is dedicated to improving the economy and quality of life in rural America. We bring housing, modern telecommunications, essential community facilities and safe drinking water to rural Vermont.

Rural housing programs reach individuals and families with low incomes. Loans can be made for up to 100 percent of the appraised value. Home repair loans of up to \$20,000 are available at an interest rate of one percent for 20 years. Loans are also available for groups and organizations to build, purchase or repair rental units for families and senior citizens and to enable farmers to build, buy or repair farm labor housing.

Community programs help fund essential community services such as child care, education, fire and rescue and transportation. Loans and grants provide funds to construct or upgrade rural community water and sewer systems, and address problems associated with solid waste. Programs are also available that meet the educational and health care needs of rural Vermont through telecommunication.

Business programs help fund projects that create or preserve quality jobs and promote a clean rural environment. Financial backing for rural businesses, economic planning, training for rural entrepreneurs or economic development officials, creation of revolving loan funds, and planning for rural communities are also available.

Cooperative services provide technical assistance and research to form new cooperative businesses, improve existing cooperatives and promote public understanding of cooperatives.

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